

NBC BRIEFING

8 June 1955

BACKGROUND - ALGERIA

I. POPULATION--1948 Census - Total: 8,588,757.

| | <u>Algiers</u> | <u>Constantine</u> | <u>Oran</u> | <u>Southern Territories*</u> |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Moslem | 2,374,047 | 2,905,679 | 1,593,387 | 789,641 |
| Non-Moslem | 354,742 | 185,469 | 373,757 | 12,025 |
| TOTAL: | 2,728,789 | 3,091,158 | 1,967,144 | 801,686 |

* Touggourt) two
Ghardaia) major

Ain Sefra) two
Saharan Oases) minor

NOTE: 1 Jan 54 population estimated total--9,480,000
Annual population increase--120,000

Statistics based on published returns of Algerian Assembly elections 31 January - 7 February 1954

II. ELECTORATE

I College

Representing 1 million of population (Non-Moslems plus favored categories of Moslems)--Elects 15 to National Assembly: 60 to A.A.

II College

Representing Remaining 8.5 million of population (Moslems)--Elects 15 to National Assembly: 60 to A.A.

| | <u>Registered Voters</u> | <u>Votes cast</u> | <u>Registered Voters</u> | <u>Votes cast</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Algiers | 108,851 | 55,204 | 207,326 | 127,191 |
| Constantine | 43,887 | 36,001 | 256,911 | 149,324 |
| Oran | 98,163 | 59,682 | 132,417 | 86,775 |
| Southern Territories | 12,067 | 6,673 | 113,202 | 82,294 |

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III. The Organic Statute of Algeria (Law No. 47-1853 20 September 1947) - All inhabitants of Algeria are henceforth to be French citizens enjoying absolute equality without distinction as to race, language or religion in the rights of French citizenship.

**A. Electorate consists of two bodies or colleges:
voting age is 23.**

I College: those citizens possessing French civil status and several special categories of native citizens (based on education, military service, etc.)

II College: all other natives, except women (female suffrage was granted by the Algerian Statute but since it needed a special act of the Algerian Assembly to effect the provision and no such act has even been passed, Algerian women do not vote.)

B. An Algerian, to vote, must have an identity card, must be one of the registered voters and must meet mental and moral qualifications

C. Illiterates are permitted to vote. However, accumulation of necessary papers is a burden for even the literate native, especially because of the necessity for making personal visits to various scattered offices. Frequently impossible to obtain a birth certificate to support application for registration. While testimony of two witnesses can be accepted in lieu of documentation, this is discretionary and subject to abuse by those in charge of the polls.